Change is no problem for Cardinals QB Gabbert

SPORTS, 1C

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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Thanksgiving Day shoppers hit a Best Buy store in Scottsdale just after it opened at 5 p.m. PHOTOS BY TOM TINGLE/THE REPUBLIC

Black Friday kicks off across metro Phoenix

Shoppers wait in line for hours to snag great deals on big-ticket electronics

Alden Woods Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

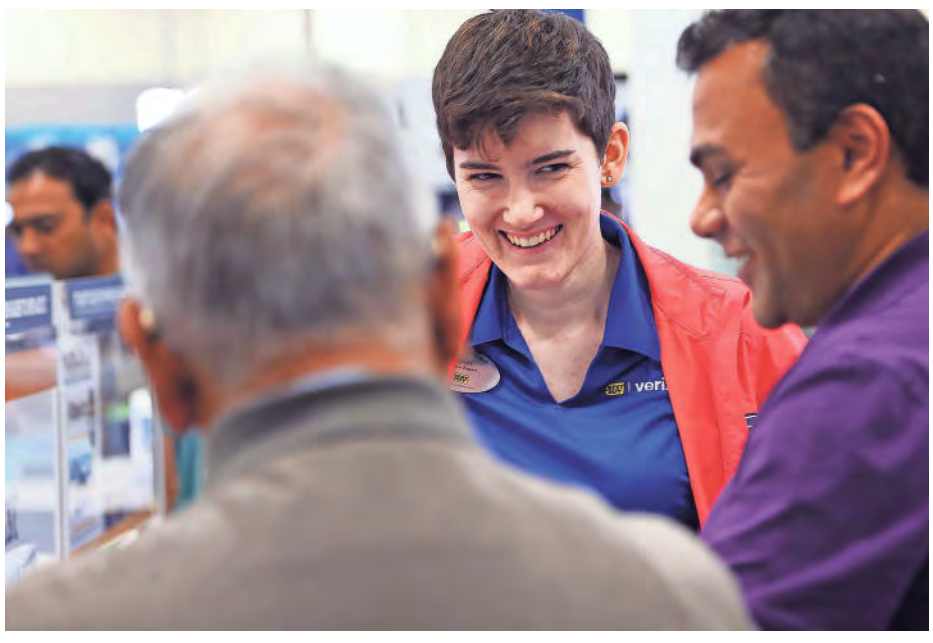
Sriram Ganesan didn't care that Black Friday was fading.

He ignored the statistics that showed tumbling in-store sales, the headlines that asked "Is Black Friday dead?" and America's internet-fueled move away from binge shopping. He skipped Thanksgiving Day traditions and rejected invitations to dinner.

His entire focus was on that TV.

"This one," he said, unfurling a Best Buy ad and pointing at his prize, a 50-inch Sharp 4K TV that was $320 off. "I have never seen such a deal." He had waited for that discount for the past 21 hours, ever since he arrived outside the front door in hopes of being the first in line. He was.

See BLACK FRIDAY, Page 5A



Best Buy Verizon expert Skyler Dolihite smiles as she helps customers as Thanksgiving Day shoppers hit the Best Buy store right after it opened.

Inside: Retailers face pressure from rivals amid changing holiday market. **15A**

Online: Stay updated on Black Friday, Cyber Monday shopping. **azcentral.com**

Mesa mayor faces vitriol

After a town hall, Giles called Trump 'an idiot'

Lily Altavena Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

The subject line? "Dear Mayor Dumbass." The contents of the email message: a prayer that the mayor of Mesa, John Giles, dies a slow, painful death from testicular cancer.

Giles drew the vitriolic response from some corners of the Internet after appearing to call President Donald Trump an "idiot." A local TV station caught him on a hot mic while he was talking with U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake after a town hall on Nov. 17.

The situation reflects what one expert says is a coarsening of civic discourse that increasingly concerns many Americans.

By Monday, a public-records search by *The Arizona Republic* found at least 41 emails to Giles in response to the incident. The vast majority are critical.

See GILES, Page 14A

Inside: Records show Republicans adding to their voter edge. **14A**

FTC probes TripAdvisor after report

An investigation by the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* revealed that TripAdvisor had deleted reports of rapes, blackouts and other injuries and deaths among travelers vacationing in Mexico. Since then, dozens more people have said that TripAdvisor silenced their reports of disturbing, sometimes terrifying experiences.

The Federal Trade Commission is now looking into TripAdvisor's business practices, according to a letter sent Friday to Sen. Tammy Baldwin. **1B**

USA TODAY **More in Section B**

CONSERVATION

A different type of wall revives dying land along Mexico border

Alex Devoid Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

DOUGLAS – A few miles southeast of here in the San Bernardino Valley, a barren ranch along the Mexican borderlands languished for decades, weakened by drought, overgrazing and heavy use.

Rain, which once fed its desert wetlands, had turned scant. When it did fall, it eroded washes deeper and deeper, carving arroyos that funneled water away from the landscape. Without water, the land couldn't support vegetation.

Without vegetation, the earth couldn't absorb rain.

The cycle persisted, until conservationists from the Cuenca Los Ojos Foun-

See WALL, Page 6A

José Manuel Pérez, director of Mexican operations at the Cuenca Los Ojos Foundation, looks at debris tangled in a Normandy-style vehicle barrier, which floodwaters from Hurricane Odile swept into Mexico. ALEX DEVOID/THE REPUBLIC

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT V&S, 3A

Jayse James, 11, and his brother Rees James, 8, give dog treats to Anne Marie for her service dog, Rules, outside the Thanksgiving meal organized by St. Vincent de Paul. NICK OZA/THE REPUBLIC

Meghan McCain marries fiance Ben Domenech

The McCain family Thanksgiving should be an especially festive one as Meghan McCain, the 33-year-old daughter of Arizona Sen. John McCain, has married Ben Domenech. *People* magazine is reporting that the couple wed just before sunset Tuesday at the McCain family's lodge in Sedona. **3A**

Christmas tree shortage

Utah families looking for a fresh-cut Christmas tree might come up short because fewer conifers are available in the Pacific Northwest this year. **15A**

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